

Elaine Kizziah (West Roxbury)

Good morning,

My name is Elaine Kizziah and I am a resident of West Roxbury. I'm writing to ask you to support the bag ordinance proposed by Councilor O'Malley and President Wu. There are so many reasons to support this ordinance, all of them good, but outstanding is the effect they are having on the environment not only in our community but in communities all around the world. We are in fact behind the rest of the world in responding to this problem. Major and Third World Countries are way ahead of us as are major cities in this country in banning the single use plastic bag. I am a senior citizen who grew up in an era when there were **no** plastic bags. We brought our own bags to the market or paper bags were provided. This is something we can do! We can form new habits and bring our own bags - many already have in communities where bans have been implemented. The 10 cent fee on paper bags could be an incentive for people to bring their own bags. 40+ cities and towns in Massachusetts have already implemented bans. Many reusable bags have already been donated and distributed around the city by major businesses and organizations. I have always prided myself in living in a progressive state and among the pioneers in tackling important problems and issues but I am embarrassed that the city of Boston is among the last major cities in Massachusetts (and the country) to begin to address this problem. This is a **very small thing** we are asking the city to do for a very big problem! Once you know the facts and the impact that the ubiquitous single use plastic bag has on the environment, (oceans and their inhabitants, rivers, landfills, wildlife, recycling bins) you cannot turn a blind eye. Plastic can take up to 1,000 years to break down into smaller pieces, is rarely recycled successfully and NEVER fully biodegrades. Every piece of plastic that was ever produced still exists in some form in the environment and is produced with **non-renewable** resources - **oil**. Please consider supporting this very important ordinance.

Thank you for taking time to read this request.